

3.14 RECREATION

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3.14.1 Definitions

Recreational areas are defined as any public or quasi-public site or facility that is used for recreational activities, including:

- National, state, county, city, or private parks (e.g., dog parks)
- Bicycle paths
- Trails
- Open space preserves
- Cultural centers
- Museums
- Campgrounds

3.14.2 Environmental Setting

Regional Setting

Sonoma County has over 50 miles of rugged and scenic coastline with several parks that include opportunities for camping, hiking, and nature and wildlife viewing. The Russian River area is a popular destination for vacationers, and includes coastal redwood groves and recreational areas along the Russian and Gualala Rivers. Lake Sonoma, formed by Warm Springs Dam, provides 2,700 acres of water for water sports and fishing, several miles of trails for horseback riding and hiking, and numerous campsites and picnic areas.

Local Setting

Recreational resources within the project alignment are listed in Table 3.14-1. Recreational facilities in the proposed project vicinity are shown in Figure 3.14-1. Trails within Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park are shown on the detailed maps in Appendix A.

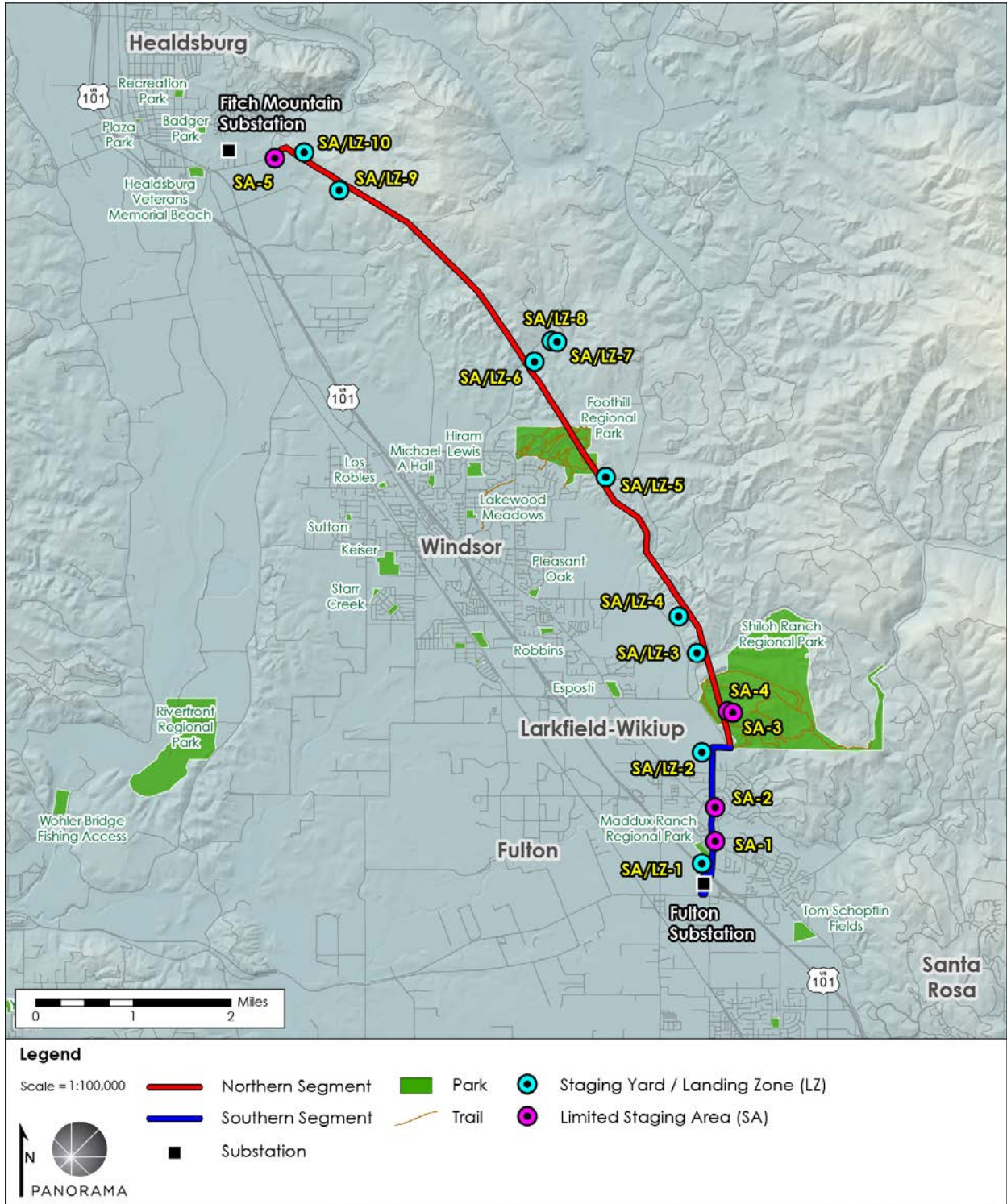
Table 3.14-1 Recreational Resources Within the Project Alignment

Recreational Resource	Size (acres)	Distance to Nearest Project Component	Features
Maddux Ranch Regional Park <i>4655 Lavell Road, Santa Rosa</i>	11	Directly adjacent to SA/LZ-1 and Poles 9 and 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis courts • Little League and multi-use fields • Turf areas • Picnic tables • Children's playgrounds
Shiloh Ranch Regional Park <i>5750 Faught Road, Windsor</i>	850	Approximately 0.7 mile of the project alignment would be located within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 8 miles of trails for hiking, biking, birding, and horseback riding • Oak woodlands, mixed evergreen forests, rolling hills, a shaded creek, and a pond • Picnic tables
Foothill Regional Park <i>1351 Arata Lane, Windsor</i>	211	Approximately 0.8 mile of the project alignment would be located within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 7 miles of trails for hiking, biking, birding, and horseback riding • Oak woodlands, rolling hills, and grassy meadows • Three ponds for bass and bluegill fishing • Picnic tables

Source: (Sonoma County 2017)

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Figure 3.14-1 Public Recreational Facilities Near the Proposed Project



Sources: (ESRI 2016, PG&E 2016, Sonoma County, Permit and Resource Management Department 2010, Sonoma County GIS Central and Merrick & Company 2012)

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3.14.3 Impact Analysis

Summary of Impacts

Table 3.14-2 presents the CEQA significance criteria and a summary of the impacts on recreation that would occur during construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project.

Table 3.14-2 Summary of Proposed Project Impacts on Recreation

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion

a) Would the proposed project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Significance Determination
	Less than significant with mitigation

Construction

Overview

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce growth in the area (refer to Section 3.13: Population and Housing) and, therefore, would not increase use of neighborhood or regional recreational facilities that could result in deterioration of those facilities. No impact from increased use of recreational facilities would occur.

Construction activities would take place within Maddux Ranch Regional Park, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park. These construction activities would include pole replacements, construction staging, and reconductoring. The impacts from construction activities within each park are presented here.

Maddux Ranch Regional Park

The proposed project would include conductor removal and replacement on one TSP located at the northeast corner of Maddux Ranch Regional Park. The conductor would pass over the parking lot for Maddux Ranch Regional Park. Conductor removal and stringing could require

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the temporary closure of a portion of the Maddux Ranch Regional Park parking lot for safety. Conductor removal and installation would occur for a few days at the park. Temporary closures during construction could restrict access to the park, resulting in a potentially significant impact if users were redirected to other parks and caused additional wear and tear on neighboring facilities. APM REC-1 requires PG&E to coordinate with park management prior to closure of the park and post notices. Posting notices would not ensure continued access to the parking lot, and the impact would remain significant. MM Traffic-1 requires PG&E to install guard structures if overhead reconductoring activities would affect public access for more than 15 minutes per day. If guard structures cannot feasibly be installed at the park, MM Traffic-2 requires PG&E to implement an Overhead Construction Safety Plan, which would include positioning flaggers to maintain public access. Impacts from conductor stringing would be less than significant with implementation of APM REC-1 and mitigation.

Staging area SA/LZ-1 would be located adjacent to Maddux Ranch Regional Park. Helicopters would be used in the Southern Segment for approximately 2 to 3 hours on two separate occasions. The use of helicopters for a few hours at SA/LZ-1 would not substantially affect recreational use of Maddux Ranch Regional Park, or cause the physical deterioration of the park. The impact from helicopter activities would be less than significant.

Shiloh Ranch Regional Park and Foothill Regional Park

The proposed project would include the replacement of four poles and approximately 0.7 mile of conductor in Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and the replacement of four poles and approximately 0.8 mile of conductor in Foothill Regional Park.

Construction activities within these parks could occur for several months of the ~~10 to 128~~-month construction period in the Northern Segment. Work areas would be located around the poles in both parks, and a pull site and two limited staging areas are proposed within the boundary for Shiloh Ranch Regional Park. Construction vehicles and equipment would access the work areas using existing unpaved access routes that also function as recreation trails. Where necessary, access routes and work areas would be graded and cleared of vegetation to facilitate construction access. Grading and vegetation clearing may occur along access routes up to the existing width of the routes (i.e., access routes within regional parks would not be expanded). If necessary, trees may be removed from work areas and access routes. Impacts on vegetation and trees are addressed in Section 3.4: Biological Resources.

Construction activities within the parks could result in the physical deterioration of trails and park areas if the trails and work areas were not adequately restored after construction, which would be a significant impact. MM Biology-7 requires the restoration of all temporarily disturbed habitat, which would include impacted vegetation within the parks that are outside of trails, but the measure would not address the damage to recreational trails. MM Recreation-1 requires PG&E to repair all damage caused to trails. Physical impacts on trails would be less than significant with implementation of MM Recreation-1.

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Trails may be temporarily closed for safety purposes during overhead construction activities (e.g., conductor stringing and helicopter operations), during vehicle and equipment access, and where proposed work areas would overlap with trails. All other areas of the parks not temporarily closed for safety purposes would remain open to the public. Temporary trail closures could occur for up to a few weeks at any one location depending on the construction activities that would occur (i.e., conductor stringing would only occur over the course of a few days, but access road widening, vegetation removal, pole replacement, and conductor stringing at one location would take up to a few weeks). A few of the temporary trail closures would occur near entrances to the parks, and could block access to the park. A significant impact could occur if people travel off-trail through the parks to avoid closures, resulting in the physical deterioration of the facilities. MM Traffic-1 requires PG&E to install guard structures to maintain public access to trails and other public thoroughfares, where possible. If guard structures cannot be installed, MM Traffic-2 requires PG&E to position flaggers at trail crossings or the trails may be temporarily closed. MM Recreation-2 requires PG&E to post signs at park and trail entrances to notify trail users of closures and identify any appropriate trail detours. MM Recreation-2 also requires PG&E to obtain approval for detour routes from the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department prior to implementation. Coordinating with the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department and posting adequate signage would reduce the potential for unauthorized trail use and physical deterioration of the parks. The impact would be less than significant with mitigation.

Equipment, workers, and materials would also be transported to work areas in the parks by helicopter. Helicopters would typically hover over work areas in the parks and transport objects using a 60- to 80-foot rope or cable. PG&E has identified potential helicopter touch down areas within both parks where helicopters may briefly land on the ground, when necessary and safe to do so, to drop off or pick up equipment, workers, and materials. Helicopter touch down would only occur in open, flat areas and would not require the removal of vegetation. Flight paths would be located along the conductor alignment, and in relatively direct routes between adjacent helicopter LZs. Helicopters would fly over the parks during work within the park boundaries, as well as during work at other project locations within approximately 3 miles. Helicopter activities would not physically deteriorate the parks; therefore, the impact would be less than significant. Helicopter noise in regional parks is addressed in Section 3.11: Noise.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance of the proposed project would be similar to operation and maintenance conducted for the existing power lines and substation. Operation and maintenance activities would occur within existing PG&E easements. The proposed project would not have a permanent effect on recreational facilities or activities in the area. Operation and maintenance activities would not impact recreational facilities.

Required APMs and MMs: APM REC-1, MM Recreation-1, MM Recreation-2, MM Biology-7 (refer to Section 3.4: Biological Resources), MM Traffic-1, and MM Traffic-2 (refer to Section 3.15: Transportation and Traffic)

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b) Would the proposed project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	Significance Determination
	No impact

The proposed project would not include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

Required APMs and MMs: None

3.14.4 Required Applicant Proposed Measures and Mitigation Measures

APM REC-1: Coordination with Park Management and Signage
PG&E will coordinate closely with park management for temporary public land and trail closures during project construction activities. If any park or trail closures are necessary during construction, PG&E would post signs advising recreational facility users of construction activities, including directions to alternative trails and/or bikeways at entrance gates to regional parks. Signage will be posted at least 1 week in advance of parks or trail closures.
Applicable Locations: Maddux Ranch Regional Park, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park
Performance Standards and Timing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before Construction: Coordinate with Sonoma County Regional Parks District prior to park or trail closures • During Construction: Post signage at least 1 week prior to park or trail closures • After Construction: N/A

MM Recreation-1: Trail Conditions and Repairs
PG&E shall prepare a Pre-Project Trail Condition Report prior to construction that documents the condition of designated trails located within project work areas or access routes. The Pre-Project Trail Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC no less than 30 days before construction. PG&E shall repair all damage to trails (e.g., rutting) caused by construction vehicles and equipment by the completion of construction. PG&E shall prepare a Post-Project Trail Condition Report documenting the final state of all trails within project work areas and access routes. The Post-Project Trail Condition Report shall be submitted to the CPUC within 30 days of completing construction in each project segment. PG&E shall complete all trail repairs to the approval of the CPUC.
Applicable Locations: Shiloh Ranch Regional Park and Foothill Regional Park
Performance Standards and Timing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before Construction: Pre-Project Trail Condition Report is submitted to the CPUC no less than 30 days prior to construction • During Construction: Trail damage from the project is adequately repaired by the completion of construction • After Construction: Post-Project Trail Conditions Report is submitted to the CPUC within 30 days of completing construction

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MM Recreation-2: Trail Detours and Notifications

PG&E shall provide temporary trail detours in regional parks, where feasible. Trail detours must be located on existing trails or unvegetated areas, and shall not be located where they could impact a sensitive biological and cultural resources. Trail detours may be placed along the perimeter of active work areas or through inactive work areas when it is safe to do so. Proposed trail detours within regional parks shall be agreed upon by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department prior to implementation.

Signs shall be posted at park and trail entrances to inform park users of construction activities that may be encountered, such as vehicles and equipment on trails, excavations, and helicopter activities. The signs shall include a map of trail closures, trail detours, and construction areas to avoid.

Applicable Locations: Maddux Ranch Regional Park, Shiloh Ranch Regional Park, and Foothill Regional Park

Performance Standards and Timing:

- **Before Construction:** PG&E coordinates with park officials at least 90 days prior to construction
- **During Construction:** (1) PG&E installs and maintains signs directing trail users of detours or closures, and (2) any trail detours are located within disturbed areas and do not create permanent new trails
- **After Construction:** N/A

3.14.5 References

ESRI. 2016. "Raster, Vector, and On-line GIS Data Resources."

PG&E. 2016. "Project Elements GIS dataset."

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Sonoma County GIS Central and Merrick & Company. 2012. "TRA_STREETS (Trail Class selection) GIS dataset."

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